THE NONPROFIT SECTOR
AND PHILANTHROPY

NPA 671

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SYLLABUS

Master of Nonprofit Administration
School of Business and Professional Studies
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THE NONPROFIT SECTOR AND PHILANTHROPY

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SYLLABUS

Course Description

This is a foundation course, examining the origins and societal role of private nonprofit organizations, including their historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and ideological importance in the U.S. and beyond. Current trends in the nonprofit sector and projections for the future are analyzed.

Course Overview

Collective action in American society takes countless forms, from committees that last a few days to mega-structures like the U.S. Army. Enduring groups outside the family are generally of three types: government, private for-profit, and private nonprofit. The last will be the focus of this course.

Nonprofits are themselves quite diverse, from tiny grassroots groups to very large organizations like California Pacific Medical Center, American Red Cross, and Harvard University. The course traces the historical development, current dimensions, and societal functions of this sector as well as the parallel phenomenon of philanthropy, especially giving and volunteering. Special topics include theories of the nonprofit sector and philanthropy, the role of foundations and corporate funders, international nonprofit work, and the future of nonprofits and philanthropy.

Until the last few decades, these topics received far less scholarly and popular attention than did for-profit and government action and agencies. John D. Rockefeller III once called nonprofits “the invisible sector.” This course will result in an informed overview of the reasons why nonprofits and philanthropy exist; the history, size, and shape of the nonprofit sector; and the roles nonprofits and philanthropy play in society. The course will also help the student “place” her/his organization and type of work within the larger context of the nonprofit sector.
Schedule

NPA 671 is organized into seven 4-hour sessions covering the following topics:

Session 1: History of American nonprofits and philanthropy: colonial period, 19th century
Session 2: History of American nonprofits and philanthropy: 20th century
Session 3: Current dimensions of American nonprofits and philanthropy
Session 4: International perspectives
Session 5: Foundation and corporate philanthropy
Session 6: Theories of the nonprofit sector and philanthropy
Session 7: Recent trends and future projections

Texts


Requirements

Students are required to:

1. come to each class (including Session 1) having read the required readings and being prepared to discuss them;
2. take a 2-hour closed-book written examination at the beginning of Session 4 on the material covered in Sessions 1-3; and
3. write a research paper of 2500-3000 words (10-15 pages double space), due at Session 7. The paper should develop a course-related topic in more depth than is possible in the required readings and class discussions. Thus, more extensive use of the supplementary readings is expected. Papers will be evaluated on such criteria as clarity, organization, accuracy, presentation, logic, relevance, scholarship, originality, comprehensiveness, and significance. See the course Blackboard site, “Course Documents,” for sample topics and a sample paper.

Evaluation

Examination ................................................................................................. 40%
Paper ......................................................................................................... 50%
Class preparation and participation......................................................... 10%
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Session One

HISTORY OF AMERICAN NONPROFITS AND PHILANTHROPY:
COLONIAL PERIOD, 19th CENTURY

Required Readings

From Hammack:
   Statute of Charitable Uses, pp. 5-8
   Elizabethan Poor Law, pp. 9-13
   Benjamin Franklin, Autobiography, pp. 70-84
   Constitution of the United States of America, pp. 111-113
   Dartmouth College case, pp. 123-141
   Kathleen McCarthy, “Parallel Power Structures,” pp. 248-263


Supplementary Readings, Session 1 and 2

Axinn and Levin, 1982
Brilliant, 1990, 2000
Burlingame, 2004
Chambers, 1986
Curti, 1956
DiMaggio, 1990
Ellis and Noyes, 1990
Fosdick, 1989
Friedman and McGarvie, 2003

Hammack, 1998
Horowitz, 1976
Jordan, 1959
Karl and Katz, 1981
Powell and Steinberg, 2006, chapter 1
Owen, 1964
Schlesinger, 1964
Scott, 1991
Smith and Lipsky, 1993
Trattner, 1984
Learning Objectives

At the end of Session 1, the student will understand:

- the roots of the American nonprofit sector in British history, laws, and institutions
- the religious, demographic, legal, and social framework of charitable organizations in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries
- the principal reasons for the growth of the nonprofit sector during the nineteenth century
- ideas and practices of philanthropy among women, African Americans, and the super-wealthy
- the respective roles of (a) government, (b) host-culture associations, and (c) immigrant/ethnic/religious associations in the development of the nonprofit sector in the nineteenth century
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Session Two

HISTORY OF AMERICAN NONPROFITS AND PHILANTHROPY:
20th CENTURY

Required Readings

From Hammack:
Frederick T. Gates, “Address,” pp. 320-328
Pierce v. Society of Sisters, pp. 404-421


Supplementary Readings

See Session 1.

Learning Objectives

At the end of Session 2, the student will understand the following 20th century developments:

• the impact, positive and negative, of the federal government on the nonprofit sector
• the principal reasons for the growth of the nonprofit sector
• changing relationships between the nonprofit sector and (a) government and (b) business
• the changing balance between philanthropy, government grants and contracts, and fees for service in the funding of nonprofits
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Session Three

CURRENT DIMENSIONS OF AMERICAN NONPROFITS AND PHILANTHROPY

Required Readings

O’Neill, 2002, Chapters 1, 3-8, 11, Appendix


Supplementary Readings


Bowen et al., 1994
Campoamor et al., 1999
Chaves, 2004
Clark, 1980
Clotfelter, 1992
Clotfelter and Erlich, 1999, chapter 1
Daniels, 1988
DiMaggio, 1986
Fremont-Smith, 2004
Gallegos and O’Neill, 1991
Giving USA, published annually
Hammack and Young, 1993
Hodgkinson, Weitzman, and Kirsch, 1988
Institute for Nonprofit Organization Management, 1995, 2009
Milofsky, 1988
O’Connell, 1987
O’Connell and O’Connell, 1989
Odendahl and O’Neill, 1994
O’Neill, 1994
Powell, 1987, chapter 4
Powell and Steinberg, 2006, chapter 3
Putnam, 2000
Smith, 2000
Smith and Friedman, 1972
Smith, Shue, Vest, and Villareal, 1999
Van Til, 1988, 2000
Weisbrod, 1988
Weitzman et al., 2002
Wuthnow and Hodgkinson, 1990

Learning Objectives

At the end of Session 3, the student will understand

• the magnitude of the nonprofit sector as measured by number of organizations, employees, and volunteers, and various financial and other indicators
• the relative financial and personnel dimensions of major nonprofit subsectors
• the principal sources of nonprofit revenue, and differences in revenue patterns among major nonprofit subsectors
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Session Four

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Note: Examination on required readings and class discussions of Sessions 1-3

Required Readings

O'Neill, 2002, Chapter 9


Supplementary Readings

Anheier, 2005
Gidron, Kramer, and Salamon, 1992
Ilchman, Katz, and Queen, 1998
James, 1989
Kramer, 1981
McCarthy, 2001
McCarthy, Hodgkinson, Sumariwalla, and associates, 1992
Powell, 1987, chapters 22-24
Powell and Clemens, 1998, chapters 10-12
Powell and Steinberg, 2006, chapters 4, 14, 17
Salamon, 2002, chapter 7
Salamon and Anheier, 1994
Salamon et al., 1999
Ware, 1989
Wolch, 1990

Learning Objectives

At the end of Session 4, the student will understand:

• major differences between the U.S. nonprofit sector and nonprofit sectors in other nations
• history and dimensions of U.S. nonprofit work abroad
• growth of the nonprofit, nongovernment, or civil society sector internationally
• legal, political, sociological, cultural, and economic factors that may explain the differences in nonprofit roles and growth between the U.S. and other nations
• different traditions, ideas, and practices of philanthropy in other countries
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Session Five

FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY

Required Readings

O'Neill, 2002, Chapter 10


Supplementary Readings

Burlingame, 1992
Commission on Foundations and Private Philanthropy, 1970
Dowie, 2001
Fleishman, 2007
Fosdick, 1989 [1952]
Fremont-Smith, 1965
Galaskiewicz, 1985, 1997
Karl and Katz, 1981
Kass, 2008
Keppel, 1930
Lagemann, 1989, 1999
Levy, 1999
Magat, 1979, 1989a, 1989b, 1999
Nielsen, 1972, 1985
Odendahl, 1987, 1990
Payton and Moody, 2008
Powell, 1987, chapters 19-20
Powell and Steinberg, 2006, chapter 8
Salamon, 2002, chapter 11
Schervish, 1994
Schervish, Couttsoukis, and Lewis, 1994
Shannon, 1991

Learning Objectives

At the end of Session 5, the student will understand:

- the statistical dimensions of institutional philanthropy
- the roles that foundations and corporate giving play in American society
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Session Six

THEORIES OF THE NONPROFIT SECTOR AND PHILANTHROPY

**Required Readings**

O’Neill, 2002, Chapter 2


Alexis de Tocqueville, “Political Associations in the United States” and “Of the Use Which Americans Make of Public Associations in Civil Society,” in Hammack, pp. 142-153

**Supplementary Readings**

Adams, 1986
Anderson, 1971
Anheier and Ben-Ner, 2003
Banton, 1968
Berger and Neuhaus, 1977
Boulding, 1981
DiMaggio and Anheier, 1990
Douglas, 1983
Ellman, 1982
Frumkin, 2002
Gamwell, 1984
Hansmann, 1980, 1996
Hodgkinson and Foley, 2003
Lohmann, 1992
O’Connell, 1999
Olson, 1965
Ostrander, Langton, and Van Til, 1987

Payton, Novak, O’Connell, and Hall, 1988
Powell, 1987, chapters 2-3
Powell and Steinberg, 2006, chapters 5, 9-10
Putnam, 2000
Rose-Ackerman, 1986
Salamon, 1995, 1999
Sievers, 2010
Sills, 1968
Skocpol and Fiorina, 1999
Sulek, 2010a, 2010b
Value of Associations . . ., 1990
Van Til, 1988, 1990
Walzer, 1991
Warren, 2001
Weisbrod, in Phelps, 1975
Weisbrod, 1988, 1998
Wuthnow, 1991
Young, 1983

**Learning Objectives**

At the end of Session 6, the student will understand:

- the principal anthropological, historical, sociological, economic, and political theories of the nonprofit sector and philanthropy
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Session Seven

RECENT TRENDS AND FUTURE PROJECTIONS

Required Readings

O’Neill, 2002, Chapter 12


Supplementary Readings

Hodgkinson and Lyman, 1989, chapters 20, 28

O’Neill, 2009

Salamon, 2002, chapter 1

Learning Objectives

At the end of Session 8, the student will understand

• the logics of prediction
• major recent trends in the American nonprofit sector and philanthropy
• hypotheses about the future of the nonprofit sector and philanthropy in the next quarter century
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Burlingame, Dwight (ed.). Philanthropy in America: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia. 3 volumes. Santa Barbara, Ca.: ABC-CLIO, 2004. (Ref. HV91 P58)


Giving USA. Published annually. (Reference HV89 G5)


Principal Relevant Journals
Chronicle of Philanthropy
Nonprofit Management and Leadership
Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly (formerly Journal of Voluntary Action Research)
Stanford Social Innovation Review
Voluntas